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The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Note verbale dated 14 December 2012 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the distinct honour, on behalf of the Chair of the Kimberley Process, and pursuant to paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 66/252 entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts", to transmit the 2012 Kimberley Process report (see annex) and to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 14 December 2012 from the
United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

**Report of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to the
General Assembly for 2012**

**Submitted by the United States of America, Chair of the Kimberley Process
for 2012**

Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/252 of 25 January 2012, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the Process. The Assembly also decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict". In this connection, as Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2012, the United States submits the following report on the question. The report covers developments since the submission of the report by the Democratic Republic of the Congo dated December 2011 (A/66/593) in its capacity as Chair for 2011 and includes the final communiqué of the plenary meeting held in Washington, D.C., from 27 to 30 November 2012.

2. The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative of Governments, the umbrella industry group World Diamond Council and the civil society coalition, established to prevent the flow of conflict diamonds into legitimate international trade. The Process aims to break the link between trade in diamonds and armed conflict, considering in particular its devastating impact on peace, safety and security of people. The Process is implemented by each participating country through national laws and regulations and the establishment of a system of internal controls designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds from shipments of rough diamonds imported into or exported from its territory. Many countries that had been affected by conflict now have peace and stability. With the elimination of illegal trade in conflict diamonds, legitimate trade generates revenue used to finance public programmes, thereby creating favourable conditions for diamond-producing countries to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To date, almost all countries that produce, process and trade diamonds participate in the Process.

3. In its resolution 55/56, adopted in 2000, the General Assembly expressed the need for the creation and implementation of an international scheme for rough diamonds; in resolution 57/302, adopted in 2003, it welcomed the creation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which had been launched officially at Interlaken, Switzerland, in November 2002. Each year since then, the Assembly has debated the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict and has reaffirmed its support for the Process. In addition, the Security Council, in its resolution 1459 (2003), strongly supported the Certification Scheme as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds.

Contribution to international peace and security

4. Since the establishment of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in 2003, there has been a dramatic improvement in the security situation in several diamond-producing countries, due largely to the effectiveness of the Process. In compliance with Security Council resolution 2045 (2012), the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire was closely monitored by the Process through its Working Group on Monitoring and Working Group of Diamond Experts, by the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire and during the plenary in Washington, D.C. At that plenary, it was noted that the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire had conducted visits to the Ségoula producing region of Côte d'Ivoire in August and September 2012. The Working Group of Diamond Experts had also visited in September 2012. The plenary requested that the Working Group on Monitoring, in association with the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire and other Process bodies as appropriate, should actively collaborate with the newly established interministerial permanent secretariat of the Process and the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1980 (2011) and 2045 (2012), the Kimberley Process has worked in collaboration with the Group of Experts and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire, including through a presentation made by the Chair to the Security Council in May 2012. The plenary acknowledged the importance of technical assistance to the Ivorian Process authorities and called upon members of the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire to provide such assistance. In this context, the plenary also took note of the joint efforts by the United States Geological Survey and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission to identify a common methodology for satellite monitoring of diamond mining in Côte d'Ivoire and joint United States Agency for International Development/European Union plans to provide technical assistance for promoting the formalization of the artisanal mining sector and reinforcing the country's chain of custody through the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Programme. Participants in the Process have continued to monitor and report on all packages suspected of originating in Côte d'Ivoire.

5. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1961 (2010), the Process continues to monitor progress in the implementation of internal controls in Liberia. Implementation-related problems and continuing challenges still need to be addressed in collaboration with the Liberian Process authorities and the Panel of Experts on Liberia. Liberia has agreed to host a review visit early in 2013, to be led by Ghana and joined by other participants.

6. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/252, the Process has continued monitoring progress in the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in West Africa and the Working Group of Diamond Experts has continued its work on footprinting in the region. Guinea, in particular, has worked to strengthen its certification system and, consequently, the plenary concluded the Swakopmund administrative decision on Guinea (2009). Guinea accepted the findings of the 2010 United States Geological Survey assessment with regard to artisanal mining sites undertaken on behalf of the Working Group of Diamond Experts. It also committed itself to inviting a review visit in 2013 to visit artisanal and, if appropriate, industrial production areas.

Achievements during 2012

7. Five administrative decisions were adopted at the 2012 Kimberley Process plenary meeting held in Washington, D.C.

8. As Chair of the Process, the United States placed a priority on strengthening the initiative's functioning and efficiency. Under the chairmanship of the United States, the Process adopted an administrative decision on the selection, engagement and operation of an administrative support mechanism to improve the initiative's effectiveness through the performance of additional administrative services. The World Diamond Council was selected to perform the function for a period of one year, beginning on 1 January 2013. The World Diamond Council expects to fully fund the mechanism and provide services from offices in Belgium, Ghana, India and Israel. During the plenary meeting, it was noted that no individual participating in the functions of the mechanism would be engaged in Process committee work.

9. Under the chairmanship of the United States, the plenary strengthened the effectiveness of statistical reporting by adopting an administrative decision on the data anomalies questionnaire process to improve the accuracy of statistics submitted by participants.

10. Under the chairmanship of the United States, the plenary further strengthened the functioning of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme by adopting a revised administrative decision on the Scheme peer review system to enhance the efficiency and quality of the review process and visits.

11. Under the chairmanship of the United States, the plenary improved transparency and consistency in dealing with non-compliant participants by adopting revised guidelines for the Participation Committee in recommending interim measures as regards serious non-compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements.

12. Under the chairmanship of the United States, the plenary addressed the issue of technical assistance and economic development by adopting the Washington Declaration of 2012, which focuses on internal controls and development in artisanal and small-scale mining.

13. As Chair of the Process, the United States placed a priority on implementation and enforcement. It sponsored a Customs seminar in West Africa in February and invited enforcement experts to participate in panel discussions at both the intersessional meeting and the plenary. For the purpose of better enforcement, the sharing of fraudulent certificates within the Process and with the World Customs Organization has now become a standard practice. The Chair also launched electronic mailing lists (ArtisanalSmallScaleMining@kimberleyprocess.com, LargeScaleMining@kimberleyprocess.com and TradingandManufacturing@kimberleyprocess.com) for each sector of the supply chain to improve transparency and communication.

14. As Chair of the Process, the United States, with generous support from the Antwerp World Diamond Centre, overhauled and greatly expanded the Process website (www.kimberleyprocess.com). Under the chairmanship of the United States, a development and assistance section of the website was created and monthly technical assistance bulletins are issued to connect those in need of expert assistance with those who can provide it.

Participation: the Kimberley Process has 80 participants

15. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is open to all countries and to any regional economic integration organization that is willing and able to fulfil the requirements of the Scheme. In August 2012, Cameroon and, in November 2012, Cambodia, Kazakhstan and Panama joined the Process. As at 30 November 2012, 80 countries were participating in the Process.

16. The plenary expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Zimbabwean authorities, the monitoring team and the civil society coalition representatives in Zimbabwe to resolve the concerns regarding non-compliance in Marange. As such, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the 2011 Kinshasa administrative decision, the terms of that decision no longer apply to Zimbabwe. The plenary reviewed in detail reporting from 2012 on the Marange diamond fields provided by the monitoring team and the civil society coalition representatives in Zimbabwe. The plenary underlined that the manner and level of reporting on that administrative decision had greatly enhanced the Process' understanding of Marange and might serve as a useful model for future situations where the Process worked together with a participant to resolve issues of sustaining compliance.

17. The plenary noted with appreciation the progress reported and the sharing by the Zimbabwean authorities of the monitoring team reports with relevant institutions that might provide further assistance and fiscal management expertise to Zimbabwe as required. The plenary emphasized that monitoring of issues in relation to compliance would continue under the regular arrangements that applied to all participants. The plenary encouraged Zimbabwe to maintain the best practices developed during 2012, including facilitating engagement among Governments, the World Diamond Council and the civil society coalition with regard to the development of diamond-related policy and legislation, exchange of information on internal controls and measures to address artisanal mining in order to also combat smuggling and address security incidents at the mine level.

Monitoring and peer review: a vital Kimberley Process tool

18. The plenary took note of the results of participants' compliance with the requirement to submit annual reports, which is the most important means of obtaining complete and regular information on the status of implementation of the Certification Scheme. As at 30 November 2012, 49 participants representing 75 countries had submitted their annual reports. The plenary asked the Chair of the Process to contact the one participant that had not yet submitted an annual report.

19. In 2008, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voluntarily withdrew from the Process for a period of two years, thereby suspending its exports and imports of rough diamonds. In 2010, Brazil presented a decision from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to extend its self-suspension for an additional year. In 2011, the Kinshasa plenary decided that, if the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela did not submit the annual reports requested, it would be removed from the list of Process participants. At the plenary held in Washington, D.C., the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela asserted its intention to reintegrate itself into the Certification Scheme. To facilitate reintegration, the Participation Committee requested the submission of accurate statistics and the completion of a successful review mission with the

participation of Process participants, the World Diamond Council and the civil society coalition. The plenary expressed regret that, were those steps not taken by 1 April 2013, appropriate actions would be taken, which might ultimately lead to the removal of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from the Process.

20. One of the main objectives of the Working Group on Monitoring is to implement the system of peer review visits, which is an important tool for enhancing the effectiveness of the Process. It ensures that participants identify and remedy compliance issues and facilitates the sharing of best practices. Canada, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States were reviewed in 2012; the next review visits are planned for South Africa, Liberia, Togo, Armenia, Guyana, Viet Nam and the Russian Federation.

21. To strengthen the implementation of the Certification Scheme within its current remit, the plenary endorsed a proposal for amendments to the administrative decision on the Certification Scheme peer review system. As such, the plenary welcomed actions by the Working Group on Monitoring to introduce more regular review visits, broader expert participation and more stringent requirements for reporting on steps taken on recommendations and adopted a revised administrative decision on the peer review system.

Statistics

22. The monitoring of statistical data on production and trading of rough diamonds is an essential aspect of the Certification Scheme and a regular source of information on implementation. The submission of quarterly, biannual and annual statistics is a minimum requirement of the system. The Rough Diamond Statistics website, which is managed by the United States, has been upgraded to make it more efficient and effective. The system is protected by security mechanisms that prevent unauthorized access (certain areas of the website are accessible only to participants) and that allow for quality control so as to ensure that all data are consistent at the time of registration. The Working Group on Statistics adopted an updated methodology analysis review document, which is used in the development of the annual statistical analyses for each participant, and is currently updating the user manual. The Working Group also provided guidelines on bilateral reconciliation, which has been a major challenge for participants with extensive trade. As at 30 November, all participants had met their statistical obligations for 2012 and the Working Group on Statistics had completed analyses of 36 participants from 2011. The Working Group on Monitoring awaits responses from 21 participants.

23. The plenary adopted an administrative decision on the data anomalies questionnaire process in order to identify potential compliance problems visible through significant statistical changes earlier and make them easier to correct.

Technical issues and traceability

24. A subgroup of the Working Group of Diamond Experts, on the characterization and identification of rough diamonds, co-chaired by South Africa and the United States, continues its efforts to secure sanctioned rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire for geochemical and morphological fingerprinting research in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, the Chair of the Process and others.

25. As a follow-up to the 2009 administrative decision on Guinea, the Working Group of Diamond Experts submitted a United States Geological Survey report on the resource reserve assessment, the estimated (alluvial) production capacity and an improved footprint of the different diamond production areas of the country.

26. The Working Group of Diamond Experts relaunched work on the valuation methodologies project, under the leadership of South Africa, and plans to upload the data valuation matrix to the Process website shortly. The matrix will allow participants to evaluate different approaches on value as mentioned on Process certificates.

27. Divergent Harmonized System classification remains an issue that needs to be resolved. Guidance was prepared on the classification of mineralogical samples, rough diamonds in jewellery and other analogous cases and should be available on the website shortly. The Working Group of Diamond Experts continues to work on the vital distinction between rough and polished diamonds and is researching the implementation of a new technical guideline on diamond powders.

28. The Working Group of Diamond Experts has finalized amendments to technical definitions of "import", "export", "transit" and "country of origin" and expects to finalize work on other definition proposals by the intersessional meeting in 2013.

Artisanal/alluvial production and technical assistance

29. On 30 November 2012, the plenary adopted the Washington Declaration of 2012 on integrating the development of artisanal and small-scale diamond mining in the implementation of the Process as a complementary work instrument to the Moscow Declaration of 2005. The Working Group on Artisanal Alluvial Production is promoting more effective local controls over the production and trade of alluvial diamonds so as to ensure that only diamonds that are produced and sold in conformity with national legislation and the standards of the Certification Scheme are exported. Artisanal diamond producers and miners are constantly being confronted with serious developmental challenges that are an obstacle to the effective implementation of the Certification Scheme on the ground. Key policy goals outlined in the Washington Declaration include taking actions such as strengthening property rights and increasing access to mining licences in order to improve the formalization of artisanal mining and taking actions such as supporting complementary livelihoods and mitigating environmental damage and health risks in order to improve social conditions in artisanal and small-scale mining communities. In 2012, the Process increased its role in facilitating technical assistance to countries in need, with a focus on artisanal alluvial production.

30. In June 2012, the United States Agency for International Development, the Diamond Development Initiative and the World Bank organized a conference on enhancing the development potential of artisanal and small-scale mining, attended by more than 100 representatives of Process participants, the World Diamond Council and the civil society coalition. The conference participants developed a number of ideas to integrate development objectives with the implementation of the Process to complement the efforts of the Working Group on Artisanal Alluvial Production and the Diamond Development Initiative. They recognized that the Process should promote the adoption of a number of best practices to facilitate

improved integration of economic development principles and actions into the artisanal and small-scale mining sector.

31. The Working Group on Artisanal Alluvial Production supported the request by Cameroon for technical assistance for the establishment of traceability mechanisms within its internal controls.

Looking ahead and future challenges

32. The Process maintains its tripartite nature through the ongoing cooperation of Governments, industry — through the World Diamond Council — and civil society, represented by the civil society coalition. In practice, this means that civil society organizations participate in the annual reporting of information on national developments and submit proposals on various modalities of implementation of the Certification Scheme. After deciding not to participate in the Kinshasa plenary of November 2011, the coalition returned to the Process at the plenary held in Washington, D.C., in November 2012. With the coalition maintaining an indispensable role in the Process, it is essential that all participants support the work of the coalition in monitoring the implementation of the Certification Scheme in their respective countries.

33. Enforcement of the Certification Scheme continues to pose a challenge. To address this issue, the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency hosted an enforcement seminar, in which Customs and law enforcement officials from 11 Governments, the European Commission and the World Customs Organization participated. The seminar attendees noted the importance of international cooperation in the successful implementation of the Certification Scheme and encouraged key players in the diamond industry to promote the enforcement of the Scheme. The benefits of the increased focus on enforcement have already been seen, with participants and the World Customs Organization collaborating at an increased level to combat fake Certification Scheme certificates. More work needs to be done on the issue of enforcement, however, including by sharing information about current enforcement practices in participating countries.

34. The need to ensure the relevance of the Process by expanding the definition of “conflict diamond” remains a challenge. At the plenary, revised proposals were discussed but consensus was not reached. The plenary mandated the Committee on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Review to continue work on that important effort to keep the Process relevant to current challenges.

35. As recognized at the plenary, there is significant potential for the creation of national tripartite structures. As such, discussions are continuing on voluntary guidelines with regard to national task forces. A recommendation is expected at the 2013 plenary.

36. The Committee on Rules and Procedures is investigating next steps with regard to the Process logo.

37. South Africa will succeed the United States as Chair of the Process, with effect from 1 January 2013. On 26 November, China offered to serve as Vice-Chair in 2013 and the Selection Committee expects to communicate its recommendation regarding the Vice-Chair position to the Chair within a reasonable time frame.

Enclosure

2012 Kimberley Process final communiqué

1. The tenth Kimberley Process plenary meeting was held from 27 to 30 November 2012 in Washington, D.C. Delegations from 39 participants and observers from the World Diamond Council, the civil society coalition, the Diamond Development Initiative and the African Diamond Producers Association attended. Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mali and Panama (non-participating countries that had expressed their interest in joining), along with the World Customs Organization and the United Nations, attended as guests of the Chair.
2. The Participation Committee, the Committee on Rules and Procedures, the Working Group on Monitoring, the Working Group on Statistics, the Working Group on Artisanal Alluvial Production, the Committee on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Review, the Working Group of Diamond Experts and the Selection Committee held meetings at the plenary.
3. The plenary endorsed the recommendation of the Participation Committee to admit Panama, Kazakhstan and Cambodia as participants in the Kimberley Process. The plenary welcomed the admission in August of Cameroon as a participant via written procedure and the admission of the African Diamond Producers Association as an independent observer.
4. As recommended by the Participation Committee, the plenary added Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as members of the Committee and the African Diamond Producers Association as a permanent independent observer member of the Committee.
5. The plenary acknowledged that the Participation Committee had welcomed a presentation by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in which it had asserted its intention to reintegrate itself into the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. In the light of that expression of continued interest, the Committee had reached consensus to approach reintegration by the submission of accurate statistics, the completion of a successful review mission with participation of Process participants, the World Diamond Council and the civil society coalition, and an invitation to access all diamond production and trading facilities. The plenary expressed regret that, were those steps not taken by 1 April 2013, appropriate actions would be taken, which might ultimately lead to the removal of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from the Process.
6. The plenary adopted the revised guidelines for the Participation Committee in recommending interim measures as regards serious non-compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements.
7. The plenary took note of the result of the 2012 annual reporting process as the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Certification Scheme by participants and welcomed the submission of annual reports on implementation in 2011 by 49 participants representing 75 countries. The plenary requested that the Chair of the Process and the Participation Committee should engage with one participant, Indonesia, that had again failed to submit its annual report and to call upon it to conform with that requirement at the earliest possible date. The plenary reviewed the assessment of annual reports, called upon the

Working Group on Monitoring to explore ways of further improving the assessment mechanism and encouraged participants to submit substantive annual reports on national Process implementation in line with the guidelines on annual reports.

8. The plenary took note of the proposal made by both the civil society coalition and the World Diamond Council to report annually to the Process on their contributions to the implementation of the Certification Scheme and referred it to the Committee on Rules and Procedures for examination in the light of the 2009 administrative decision on activities of observers.

9. The plenary took note of reports of review visits conducted in Canada, Lebanon, Switzerland and Thailand and the fact that a review visit to the United States would be conducted in the week following the plenary meeting. The plenary welcomed the invitations for a review visit as submitted to the Working Group on Monitoring by South Africa, Liberia, Togo, Armenia, Guyana, Viet Nam and the Russian Federation. The plenary welcomed the commitment of those countries to continuously opening their certification systems to review and improvements and called upon other participants to continue inviting review visits under the peer review system. The plenary encouraged review visit teams to test the newly updated version of the review visit checklist and provide the Working Group with any possible suggestions for further improvement.

10. The plenary encouraged the Working Group on Monitoring to pursue strengthening implementation of the Certification Scheme within its current remit. In that respect, the plenary endorsed a proposal for amendments to the administrative decision on the Certification Scheme peer review system and as such welcomed actions by the Working Group to introduce more regular review visits, broader expert participation and more stringent requirements for reporting on steps taken on recommendations. The plenary invited the Working Group to continue reviewing the administrative decision on peer review, including the possibility for outside experts to be part of review visit teams. The plenary also invited the Working Group to contribute to the work of the Committee on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Review by examining annex II to the Process core document and making suggestions for improvement.

11. The plenary committed itself to seeking ways to further enhance the exchange and supply of information to the Working Group on Monitoring vis-à-vis concerted implementation of the Certification Scheme, including through collaboration with diamond industry associations, international organizations and appropriate enforcement agencies. The plenary encouraged the Working Group to continue discussions on that issue, including the possibility of establishing a subgroup on information-sharing to support the implementation of the Certification Scheme, with the notion that that would have no bearing on national legislation or sovereignty.

12. In light of Security Council resolution 2045 (2012), the plenary acknowledged the steps taken and actions planned by Côte d'Ivoire to ensure compliance with the minimum standards of the Certification Scheme. The plenary noted that the Chair of the Process had made a presentation to the Security Council in May 2012 and that the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire had conducted visits to Séguéla in August and September 2012, and expressed the commitment of the Process to further engaging with the Ivorian authorities to prepare for the implementation of the Certification Scheme. The plenary requested that the Working Group on Monitoring, in association with the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire and other Process bodies as

appropriate, should actively collaborate with the newly established interministerial permanent secretariat of the Process and the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire. The plenary acknowledged the importance of technical assistance to the Ivorian Process secretariat and called upon the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire to come forward with such assistance. In that context, the plenary also took note of the joint efforts by the United States Geological Survey and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission to identify a common methodology for satellite monitoring of diamond mining in Côte d'Ivoire and joint United States Agency for International Development/European Union plans to provide technical assistance for promoting the formalization of the artisanal mining sector and reinforcing the country's chain of custody through the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Programme.

13. The plenary welcomed the commitment of Guinea to fulfilling the terms of the Swakopmund 2009 administrative decision and decided to bring that administrative decision to a conclusion. The plenary welcomed the commitment of Guinea to improving its internal controls, including through further utilization of the United States Geological Survey toolkit for multi-stakeholder monitoring of remote artisanal mining sites. Guinea accepted the findings of the United States Geological Survey assessment with regard to artisanal mining sites undertaken on behalf of the Working Group of Diamond Experts and thanked the United States Geological Survey for its assistance. The plenary noted that the United States Geological Survey assessment and Working Group of Diamond Experts footprint for Guinea would need to be adjusted to account for industrial production. Guinea committed itself to inviting a review visit in 2013, recognizing that the review visit team should visit artisanal and, if appropriate, industrial production areas.

14. In the light of Security Council resolution 2025 (2011), the plenary took note of the intentions of Liberia to continue reinforcing its internal controls and underlined the need to further pursue efforts to address continuing challenges to the implementation of the Certification Scheme in collaboration with the Process and the Panel of Experts. The plenary welcomed the agreement of Liberia to host a review visit early in 2013 and thanked Ghana for its willingness to lead such a visit, while calling upon other Process participants to express interest in joining.

15. The plenary encouraged Process participants from West Africa to continue dialogue concerning methods for improved regional cooperation on the implementation of the Process. In that context, the plenary noted the multi-stakeholder workshop on enforcement that was held in Ouagadougou in February and commended Ghana on hosting a delegation from Côte d'Ivoire in June 2012.

16. The plenary commended the efforts of Zimbabwe to implement the administrative decision adopted in 2011 in Kinshasa and resolved to lift the Process special measures under the terms of that decision. The plenary expressed appreciation for the reiterated willingness of Zimbabwe to ensure that the civil society coalition representatives in Zimbabwe continued to have access to Marange.

17. The plenary reviewed in detail the situation with regard to the Marange diamond fields and recalled the efforts undertaken by Zimbabwe and the entire Process since late 2008, when concerns had arisen about compliance with the Certification Scheme. The review of the Kinshasa decision included detailed reporting on the situation provided by the monitoring team and the civil society

36. The plenary noted that no individual participating in the functions of the administrative support mechanism would be engaged in Process committee work.
37. The plenary endorsed the selection of the World Diamond Council to host the administrative support mechanism for a period of one year, beginning on 1 January 2013. The plenary noted that there would be an evaluation of the mechanism at the 2013 intersessional meeting or as needed, at the instruction of the Process Chair.
38. The plenary recognized the significant potential of the creation of national tripartite structures. The plenary decided that the Committee on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Review should continue discussions on voluntary guidelines with regard to national task forces with the aim of making a recommendation to the plenary in 2013 and welcomed the presentation by Brazil to the plenary on that subject.
39. The plenary acknowledged that, according to the mandate given to the Committee on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Review through administrative decision 006-2011, its membership was limited to current and past Chairs of the Process. The Committee acknowledged the interest of Zimbabwe in joining it and accordingly invited Zimbabwe to participate as a guest in its discussions. The Committee also extended invitations to Angola, Brazil, China, Ghana, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates to participate as guests.
40. The Working Group of Diamond Experts finalized a number of amendments to technical definitions within the Certification Scheme core document to be incorporated into the work of the Committee on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Review. Those definitions were "import", "export", "transit" and "country of origin". The Working Group will continue to develop other definition proposals that may have far-reaching consequences but that still need more research to ascertain their effectiveness. The Working Group expects this work to be finalized by the intersessional meeting in 2013.
41. As a follow-up to the mandate from the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire, the Working Group of Diamond Experts sent a team of experts to the diamond mining areas of the country. Preliminary results of that visit covering resource reserve assessment and production capacity were discussed at the plenary.
42. The subgroup of the Working Group of Diamond Experts, on the characterization and identification of rough diamonds, co-chaired by South Africa and the United States, continues its efforts to secure sanctioned rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire for geochemical and morphological fingerprinting research in close collaboration with the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, the Chair of the Process and others.
43. As a follow-up to the 2009 administrative decision on Guinea, the Working Group of Diamond Experts submitted a United States Geological Survey report on the resource reserve assessment, the estimated (alluvial) production capacity and an improved footprint of the different diamond production areas of the country.
44. The Working Group of Diamond Experts relaunched work on the valuation methodologies project, previously led by Australia and now led by South Africa, and is updating the research results and will upload the data valuation matrix to the

Process website shortly. This matrix will allow participants to evaluate different approaches on value as mentioned on Process certificates.

45. Divergent Harmonized System classification remains an issue that the Working Group of Diamond Experts and the Working Group on Statistics want to resolve. No consensus was achieved during a Working Group of Diamond Experts/Working Group on Statistics joint session. Guidance was prepared on the classification of mineralogical samples, rough diamonds in jewellery and other analogous cases and will be available on the Process website shortly. The Working Group of Diamond Experts continues work (led by Canada) on the vital distinction between rough and polished diamonds and is researching the implementation of a new technical guideline on diamond powders.

46. As recommended by the Working Group of Diamond Experts, the plenary added Zimbabwe and Brazil as members of the Working Group.

47. As recommended by the Committee on Rules and Procedures, the plenary approved the structure and the contents of the Process documents compendium, which will be placed on the Process website in order to facilitate quick access of participants and observers to any required documents. The plenary decided to have the compendium translated into all official Process languages.

48. The plenary concluded that the Process did not currently have enough information to pursue any of the proposed courses of action with regard to a Process logo. The plenary instructed the Committee on Rules and Procedures to investigate ways of registering and protecting a Process logo.

49. The plenary endorsed the efforts of the Committee on Rules and Procedures to contribute to the work of the Committee on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Review on priority area 3 of administrative decision 006-2011 with regard to participation in and chairing of Process working groups. The Committee on Rules and Procedures plans to review the 2007 administrative decision on the recommendation relating to Process participants' applications for membership of Process working organs, including making recommendations on the number of participants in working groups, rotation of working group members and admission of members under special measures.

50. As recommended by the Committee on Rules and Procedures, the plenary added Zimbabwe as a member of the Committee.

51. The plenary highlighted the importance of the administrative decision on clarifications and recommendations on the issue of applying the Process written procedure, which provided tools for making important decisions outside the plenary.

52. The plenary welcomed the enhancements to the Certification Scheme website developed by the United States with generous support from the Antwerp World Diamond Centre and encouraged participants, observers and the general public to take full advantage of the updated site.

53. The plenary welcomed the increased focus in 2012 on technical assistance through the establishment of the development and assistance section of the website. The Chair of the Process now issues monthly technical assistance bulletins to connect those in need of expert assistance with those who can provide it and thanks the European Union, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates, the United States Geological Survey, the United States Agency for International Development, the Gemological

Institute of America and others for such efforts. The plenary encourages additional measures meant to further enhance technical assistance.

54. The plenary took note of an increased level of collaboration among participants and with the World Customs Organization in combating fake Certification Scheme certificates.

55. The plenary acknowledged the benefit of the breakout sessions held at the intersessional meeting and the plenary, where participants met according to their role in the rough diamond supply chain. The plenary encouraged the continuation of that practice and the use of newly established distribution lists (ArtisanalSmallScaleMining@kimberleyprocess.com, LargeScaleMining@kimberleyprocess.com and TradingandManufacturing@kimberleyprocess.com) to improve lines of communication.

56. The plenary reaffirmed its commitment to the role of the civil society coalition within the Process. It furthermore called upon all participants to support the work of the coalition in monitoring the implementation of the Certification Scheme in their respective countries.

57. The United States Customs and Border Protection agency hosted a Process enforcement seminar. Customs and law enforcement officials from 11 Governments, the European Commission and the World Customs Organization participated in the Government-only event. Participating Governments included Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States. The seminar attendees noted the importance of international cooperation in the successful implementation of the Certification Scheme and encouraged key players in the diamond sector to remain engaged in the successful implementation of the Certification Scheme. The World Customs Organization gave a presentation to seminar attendees about Customs operations to support the implementation of the Certification Scheme.

58. At the conclusion of the plenary, the Kimberley Process comprises 54 participants representing 80 nations. Cameroon became a participant in August 2012 and participated for the first time as a participant at the plenary meeting.

59. The plenary thanked the United States for hosting the plenary meeting and expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended to the delegates. The plenary welcomed the United States as the incoming Chair of the Participation Committee for 2013.

60. The plenary welcomed the selection of South Africa as the new Chair in 2013 and took note with appreciation of the offer of China, made on 26 November, to serve as Vice-Chair in 2013, allowing for continuity in the management and leadership of the Process. The Selection Committee will communicate its recommendation regarding the Vice-Chair position to the Chair within a reasonable time frame and according to the procedure described in the administrative decision of 2008.